

## Message Text

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61

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:RWAHERNE:GLG

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/ARP - F. M. DICKMAN

----- 061560

P 142300Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO USDEL RIYADH PRIORITY

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SA, US

SUBJECT: U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY EXPERTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

REFS: (1) STATE 26307; (2) JIDDA 1070; (3) STATE 31698;

(4) STATE 32555; (5) STATE 38459; (6) STATE 44030

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DICKMAN

1. YOU MAY BE FAMILIAR WITH REFS, WHICH TRACE HISTORY OF EFFORT TO PROVIDE, PURSUANT TO SAUDI REQUEST, EXPERTISE FOR MODERNIZATION OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SAUDI SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

2. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION HAS HEARD INFORMALLY FROM TEAM CHIEF, NOW IN RIYADH, OF SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES TEAM ENCOUNTERED ON ARRIVAL RIYADH, SOME OF THEM APPARENTLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT ACTIONS REQUESTED REFS 3, 4, 5, AND 6 WERE NOT TAKEN. TEAM CHIEF ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YET TO RECEIVE, DESPITE REPEATED REQUESTS, ANY WORD FROM

THE SAUDIS ON HOW AND WHEN THEY PROPOSE TO PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THIS MISSION.

3. I RECOGNIZE THAT THE GROUP'S TRAVEL PLANS WERE CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES, AND THAT THIS DID NOT MAKE MATTERS EASIER;

AND I AM MINDFUL OF YOUR MESSAGES ABOUT THE EXTREME DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING ACCOMMODATIONS IN RIYADH DURING THIS PERIOD. I KNOW TOO OF THE EMBASSY'S UNIQUE PROBLEM IN TRYING TO DO BUSINESS WITH GOVERNMENT ENTITIES 600 MILES AWAY. I BRING THIS TO YOUR ATTENTION ONLY BECAUSE THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA), AT OUR URGING, WENT AHEAD AND SENT THESE EXPERTS AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, IN VIEW OF THE SAUDIS' CLEAR DESIRE FOR PROMPT ACTION AND THEIR GENERAL ASSURANCES ABOUT REIMBURSEMENT. SSA OF COURSE HAS NO FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR THIS KIND OF ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES. IT IS INCREASINGLY IN A BIND BECAUSE ITS FISCAL PROCEDURES DO NOT ALLOW FOR MUCH OF THE KIND OF FLEXIBILITY IT EXHIBITED IN USING ITS FUNDS FOR TRAVEL AND EXPENSES OF A PROJECT SO RELATIVELY MARGINAL TO ITS PRIMARY MISSION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO BE FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO SAUDI REQUESTS, BECAUSE IT ADVANCES OUR LARGER PURPOSES TO DO SO, BUT OUR CREDIBILITY WILL DEPEND PRETTY MUCH ON OUR RECORD IN PRODUCING WHAT WE PLEDGE - IN THIS CASE SOME INDICATION FROM THE SAUDIS OF WHEN AND HOW FUNDS WILL BE FORTHCOMING TO REIMBURSE SSA.

4. WILL YOU PLEASE RAISE THIS GENTLY WITH SOLAIM OR WHO-EVER YOU THINK BEST, AND GIVE US A RESPONSE THROUGH REGULAR CHANNELS WHICH WILL PROVIDE SOME SOLACE TO SSA? INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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